

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 20584 111529Z
ACTION HEW-06

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SUBJ: VISIT OF HEW SECRETARY CALIFANO

REF: (A) STATE 229148, (B) CAIRO 20405

1. IN ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY OF MINISTER OF HEALTH BADRAN AND MINHEALTH UNDERSEC GOMAA (SEE REF B), WE HAVE DISCUSSED TIMING OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S VISIT WITH MINSOCIAL AFFAIRS UNDERSEC HOMOSSANI. SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OSMAN IS OUT OF CAIRO FOR DAY OR TWO, BUT HOMOSSANI WILL INFORM HER OF VISIT ASAP. NO RPT NO PROBLEMS ARE ANTICIPATED IN ARRANGING APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE, INCLUDING VISITS TO CULTURAL AND HISTORIC PLACES OF INTEREST.

2. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE WITH VISITS OF HEW OFFICIALS, INCLUDING RECENT TRIP OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARABELLA MARTINEZ, WE ANTICIPATE VERY FULL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROPOSED BY GOE. AT QUESTION POSSIBLY WILL BE TRIMMING PROPOSALS SOMEWHAT TO FIT APPOINTMENTS INTO RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AVAILABLE. DETAILS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH ADVANCE TEAM SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 20584 111529Z

3. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS WISHES TO MAKE USE OF ROUGHLY ONE-HALF OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S AVAILABLE TIME IN EGYPT FOR VISITS TO PROJECT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HEW PROGRAMS. UNDERSEC HOMOSSANI SAID HIS MINISTRY WOULD COORDINATE WITH MINHEALTH ON PROGRAMMING SUGGESTED VISITS TO GOE PROJECT SITES. ASSUME HEW/OIH IS DISCUSSING PROGRAM WITH MINHEALTH UNDERSECGOMAA IN

WASHINGTON (REF B). DEPENDING ON ARRIVAL TIME NOVEMBER 16, SCHEDULE CAN POSSIBLY ACCOMMODATE OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES THAT DAY, BUT PERIOD FOR PROGRAM INVOLVING GOE OFFICIALS BASICALLY WILL BE LIMITED TO NOVEMBER 18-20. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, IS MUSLIM SABBATH.

4. DUE TO FRIDAY CLOSURE OF GOE, EMBASSY SUGGESTS SECRETARY AND PARTY TRAVEL TO LUXOR EARLY NOVEMBER 17, OVERNIGHTING AND RETURN EARLY MORNING 18TH TO BEGIN (OR RESUME) OFFICIAL PROGRAM. IDEALLY, USAF AIRCRAFT BRINGING SECRETARY TO EGYPT WOULD BE USED FOR UPPER EGYPT TRIP. EMBOFF WOULD ACCOMPANY.

5. UNLESS SECRETARY CALIFANO INTENDS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR INTEREST ON U. S.-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION IN HEALTH OR EDUCATION FIELD, DO NOT BELIEVE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE REQUESTED BY EGYPTIAN MEDIA. INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS MAY WELL ASK FOR INTERVIEWS, HOWEVER. VISIT WILL BE COVERED LOCALLY AS NEWS STORY, OF COURSE. NO RPT NO PREPARATION FOR OFFICIAL SET-PIECE SPEECHES BELIEVED NECESSARY. SOCIAL SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY GOE WILL INCLUDE DINNERS HOSTED BY MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, BUT TOASTS NORMALLY ARE NOT EXCHANGED AT GOE FUNCTIONS OF THIS TYPE. AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO OFFER RECEPTION IN SECRETARY'S HONOR; WE WILL CONFIRM THIS WITH ADVANCE TEAM.
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 20584 111529Z

6. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED TWO SINGLES FOR BELL AND JOHNS AT NILE HILTON NIGHTS OF SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH OCTOBER 2. WILL CONFIRM. EMBASSY PLANS TO RESERVE SUITE AND FOUR SINGLES FOR SECRETARY AND PARTY NOVEMBER 16 - 20, NOT TO INCLUDE 24-HOUR PERIOD WHICH PARTY MAY SPEND AT LUXOR. CONTROL OFFICER IS E/C COUNSELOR HENRY MATTOX, ASSISTED BY SCIATT ADDISON RICHMOND. LATTER WILL MEET ADVANCE PARTY UPON ARRIVAL AND COORDINATE PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR TRIP IN VIEW OF E/C COUNSELOR'S SCHEDULED ABSENCE FROM EGYPT LATE SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER.

7. IT IS NOT NEWS TO DEPARTMENT THAT GOE MINISTERIAL CHANGES ARE IN OFFING, ALMOST CERTAINLY PRIOR TO SECRETARY CALIFANO'S SCHEDULED VISIT. WHILE WE HAVE NO FIRM INDICATION THAT BADRN (OR OSMAN) WILL BE OUSTED, POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT OFFICIAL HOST WILL BE GOE PERSONAGE OTHER THAN CURRENT MINISTER OF HEALTH.

8. SUGGEST FURTHER MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT BE ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTROLLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. MATTHEWS

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